

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 90, Issue 3 • September 11, 2000 • Thinking outside the box since 1911



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Muslim Students Need Prayer Space

Islamic community not being accommodated, students say

BY CRISTINA CAMPISI
News Writer

Imagine coming back to university one fall, only to discover that the space for all social activities on campus was taken away because the university deemed that there wasn't enough room.

That's what happened to Muslim students this fall, as the only Muslim prayer space on campus found itself without a permanent home. For Muslims, prayer space is as essential to their existence as space for pubs is for most McGill students.

"For Muslims, the religious life includes all aspects of life. To be successful in academics, we must fulfill our spiritual needs. This means a space to pray five times daily, in an appropriate place in accordance with our faith," said Mahmoud Essam Hallak, a PhD student from Syria involved in McGill's Muslim Students' Association.

This summer, McGill informed the Muslim community that the primary Muslim prayer space, in the basement of the Birks Building, would be replaced by office space for professors.

Desperate Muslim students and staff reacted by forming an ad hoc Muslim Prayer Room Committee and asked the university, as well as The Students' Society of McGill University, to provide them with alternate space. The committee also approached embassies of Islamic countries

and explored real estate options in the area. But without financial resources, the Committee quickly learned that it would be impossible for the group to seek space outside the university.

"After we met with SSMU and the administration, Dean Levy [who is responsible for Birks] extended our space in the Birks Building but the agreement is still very vague," said Hallak. "Nothing permanent has been given to us in writing and the problem will persist until a permanent solution is reached. There are over 1000 Muslim students on campus, the problem will only get bigger if a solution isn't found."

Each day, about 20 students use the prayer space in the office and over 200 use the basement prayer space in shifts. SSMU has given the group use of the ballroom for Friday afternoon prayers.

The Students' Society of McGill University became involved in the Muslim students' plight, and lobbied McGill administration to find the students space.

"If the university wants to continue to attract international students it must provide the services necessary to meet their needs," said vice president clubs and services Chris Gratto. Over half of the 450 members of the Muslim Students' Association are international students.

Shaema Imam of the Muslim Students' Association thinks that it is the responsibility of both SSMU and the uni-

versity to accommodate Muslim students' need for prayer space.

"McGill provides recreational and social space for activities focused towards secular people but these activities are not appropriate to our faith," she said. "Denying us a space to pray would be like denying others a place to relax or even a basic public necessity such as washrooms. For us, the issue is one of religious accommodation as well as cultural accommodation."

Hallak, Imam and other members of the McGill Muslim community hope to meet with Dean Levy next week when he returns to Montreal.

Levy could not be reached for comment. The Muslim Students' Association has

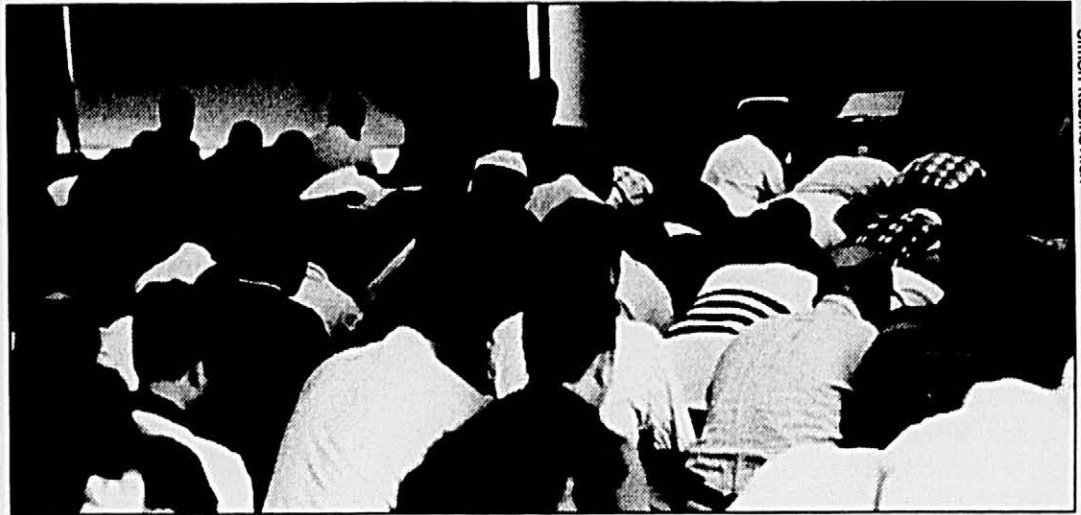
been holding their prayers in their space in the Birks building since 1998. Before this, the lack of prayer room left Muslim students in the uncomfortable situation of praying huddled together in darkened stairwells, isolated parking lots or even missing their daily prayers altogether.

For over twenty years, Muslim students have been lobbying the university for a permanent prayer room and for the same services offered by the McGill Chaplaincy to Christian and Jewish students. But to date, McGill has not provided permanent space to the Muslim community, instead providing only temporary spaces.

Hallak points to other Canadian universities which have recognized the need to pro-

vide permanent space for their Muslim communities. At the University of Toronto, a prayer space large enough for 200 people has been in use for over 20 years. The U of T has also set up a Multifaith Group, a committee made up of representatives from various groups on campus as well as from the administration with the mandate of accommodating the religious needs of students. U of T has also made the building of a new Multifaith Centre a campaign priority and has set up a Users Committee, with representation from the Muslim student community, which will determine what the centre looks like.

The University of Ottawa has also provided their Muslim Students' Association with a house for their permanent use.



Muslim students pray in the Skutner Ballroom on Friday

Simon Robinson



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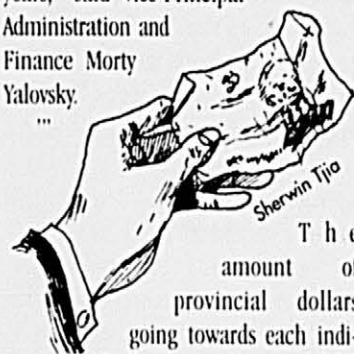


QUEBEC TO LOOSEN PURSE STRINGS FOR MCGILL

McGill's crusade to have the Quebec government address funding inequalities may finally be showing some signs of success.

Although Minister of Education François Legault has yet to make it official, McGill administrators expect an announcement at some point in the next few weeks promising the school an additional \$16-million over the next 15 years.

"They have given us the assurance that they will increase our funding, but it will be at a very slow rate over many, many years," said Vice-Principal Administration and Finance Morty Yalovsky.



The amount of provincial dollars going towards each individual program's cost at McGill has been proportionately smaller than the average at other post-secondary institutions in Quebec for several years. At an annual rate of roughly \$1-million, administrators hope to reach levels similar to those that are seen at other universities such as the Université de Montréal and the Université Laval.

The new funding formula to correct this discrepancy is currently being reviewed in a working document by the Ministry of Education and is expected to be finalized as earlier as September 15.

If approved, the Ministry's allotment would be the latest in a series of cash windfalls for McGill. Over the summer, the school received a \$64-million donation from alumnus Richard Tomlinson and \$61-million from the Canadian

Foundation for Innovation, a one-time grant that was matched by the province.

Nevertheless, Wojtek Baraniak, President of The Students' Society of McGill University, feels that the portrayal of McGill as a wealthy school is inaccurate and not just cause for the government to discriminate in its budgeting.

"The hardest part has always been convincing others that McGill isn't a golden palace, that there are very desperate needs for more money," said Baraniak.

"McGill is a school of the highest quality, but at the same time we deserve to be funded like everybody else."

Administration and SSMU have devoted much effort in the past to pressuring the government to equalize its payments to universities, however they have encountered strong opposition at times from certain French language media sources. A recent newspaper editorial slammed Legault for the \$16-million proposal, accusing him of diverting needed cash away from potential francophone recipients.

The editorial also characterized McGill as a rich school that saps taxpayer money only to produce graduates that do not remain in the province for their working life.

Principal Bernard Shapiro responded swiftly to the allegations in a letter to the editor, drawing attention to McGill's economic and cultural contributions to Quebec society, past and present.

-Simon Rabinovitch

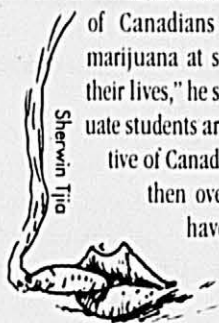
PGSS DEBATES DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIJUANA

McGill's Post-Graduate Student Society council debated a motion Thursday to support the decriminalization of marijuana.

The motion was put forth by Damian Wheeler, a Ph.D. Physiology student who strongly believes the current marijuana laws are unjust.

"More than 50 per cent of Canadians have tried marijuana at some time in their lives," he said. "If graduate students are representative of Canadians at large, then over half of us have smoked marijuana and are considered criminals," he added.

"It would send a strong message to government if they thought that grad-



uate students – intelligent, informed people – were in support of decriminalization."

But while councillors showed general support for the merits of Wheeler's arguments for decriminalization of the substance, some expressed some concern with voting on such a controversial topic that did not directly affect students.

The motion was tabled until the next PGSS meeting on October 6, and will be voted on at that time.

-Jaime Kirzner-Roberts

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Pressure Mounts in Daily Case for SSMU to Back Down

But developments in court proceedings mean an 'end in sight'

BY MCGILL DAILY STAFF

A handful of student activists were busy leafleting, collecting signatures, and raising banners on McGill's Roddick gates last week in their campaign to have SSMU stop efforts to kick The McGill Daily out of its Shatner centre offices.

The students say they're responding to SSMU's eviction of The Daily on August 4, a move they call heavy-handed and authoritarian.

Meanwhile, in the court case that will determine the paper's legal status in its 30-year old offices, both SSMU and The Daily said Friday that they were pleased with a decision by a Quebec Superior Court Justice to hear the case once and for all on September 21.

And as students returned to campus last week, attentions began to turn to the battle that has pitted SSMU against The Daily.

"People are really upset when they find out what SSMU tried to do to this summer - silence an important voice on campus," said U3 Law student François Tanguay-Renaud, referring to SSMU's decision to change The Daily's locks on August 4.

Tanguay-Renaud is one of a handful of students behind The Friends of The Daily

Coalition. Last week, the group was responsible for two large banners outside the Roddick Gates and a petition that Tanguay-Renaud says got 500 signatures in just a few hours. He expects students' concern to translate into pressure on SSMU to let The Daily stay in its offices. "If your constituents say you're doing something wrong, then you better start listening to them," he warned. He added that SSMU executives can look forward to a bumpy year if they don't back down in their campaign to relocate The Daily.

But SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak says that under the plans to renovate the student centre and relocate The Daily, the newspaper was asked only to make the same sacrifices as other tenants in the student centre.

Asked what impact pressure from students to back down would have on him, Baraniak said, "none whatsoever."

"I maintain that The Daily is an essential part of student life on campus," he said, "[but] The Daily is not in any position to be granted special status."

Still Baraniak did say that he was pleased with Friday's decision to set a date for the trial. "We have always wanted to end this as soon as possible," he said. "We've

been wasting money for too long in court."

While Michael Bergman, The Daily's lawyer, said the two sides are far from seeing eye-to-eye on the paper's right to its offices, he was also pleased to learn Friday that a date had finally been set to rule on The Daily's fate.

"It lets us take this matter to a trial as

thrown out on its derrière," he said. "It seems to me that the kind of hostile and aggressive behaviour SSMU has shown runs contrary to university culture where student groups should all work for students."

"I'm greatly heartened to see students are interested and I'm greatly heartened that there is a recognition among students of the

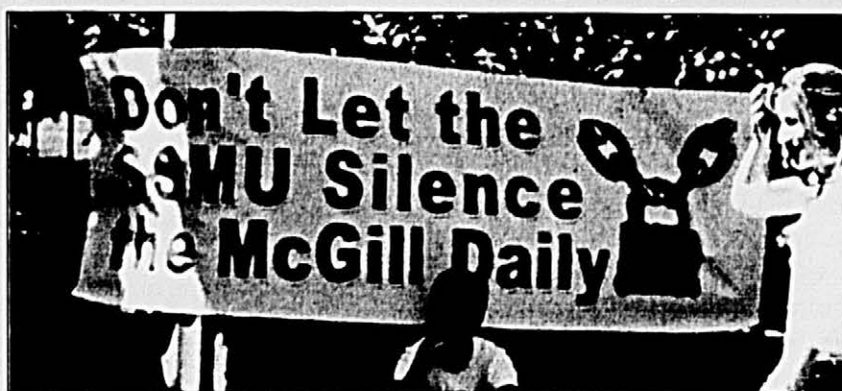
order to make way for commercial space and improved disabled access. The Daily took issue with SSMU's plans, particularly the fact that the problem was raised during the summer when the The Daily's student-run Board of Directors was unavailable.

On August 15, the Superior Court issued a temporary injunction against SSMU and McGill University, which has also been named as a defendant in the case. At the heart of the case is the sides' difference of opinion over whether or not The Daily currently has a lease.

"I'm very confident that The Daily will win out once again. We have an extremely solid case," Bergman said.

The case will go before Justice Irving Halperin at 9:30 am on September 21 at Montreal's Palais de Justice and will be open to the public.

-with files from Pierre-Olivier Savoie



soon as possible," said Bergman. He added that he sees judge Irving Halperin's decision to renew The Daily's temporary injunction as a big win for the student paper.

Bergman also says that the outpouring of support on The Daily's behalf in recent weeks is encouraging.

"It would be a sad comment if SSMU got its way and The Daily could simply be

important role The Daily plays on campus."

SSMU's lockout of The Daily last month drew national headlines. Le Débat Français, McGill's only French-language student publication, was also barred from the premises by the Students' Society's move. It came following weeks of failed discussion over plans to renovate the student centre. SSMU asked The Daily to relocate to a smaller space and pay increased rent, in

EDITORIAL NOTE: As this story relates directly to our paper, it has been very difficult for us to write it. We have done our best to maintain fairness and balance. We encourage all our readers to take steps to educate themselves further on this issue.

SSMU Censors 7 Pages of Handbook

BY RAOUL GEBERT
News Writer

The Students' Society of McGill University decided to tear out seven pages of its handbook this week, after complaints were received from Residences McGill about the book's section on residence life.

The book discussed "entirely negative aspects" of life in McGill residences, said Mona Sair, President of Inter-Residence Council.

"First-year students form their opinions by the handbook. They take it for truth," said Sair.

The handbook made reference to a number of unpleasant moments which have allegedly occurred over the past few years at the residences, noting that a student on too much acid once jumped out of the window at Gardner, and recalling that that bags of bio-hazardous waste were stolen from the nearby hospital and spread across the lobby of McConnell.

"There was really no information in it at all," complained Darren Fung, a fellow for McGill residences. "No other organization gets

slammed like we (McGill residences) do. We do accept criticism, but that was just slanderous."

Jeremy Farrell, Vice President Community and Government for SSMU, said that since Residences McGill was upset about what was written, the Students' Society decided to rip out the offending pages.

"We do not and will not censor what people write," he said. "In this particular case, though, we read through what was written about residence and thought it was not that inappropriate."

While Farrell admits that the writers of the handbook were not happy that their section on residences was ripped out, that they were understanding. The handbook editors were not consulted before removing the section from the handbook.

"We thought it was funny what we wrote," said handbook editor Chris Essert. "SSMU publishes it, so they have the right to edit it."

From now on, individual residences will write their own sections in the handbook themselves or appoint a writer to do so.

-with files from Jaime Kirzner-Roberts

SSMU Rumblings Lead to Loss of Herring

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK
The McGill Daily

The Red Herring has lost its office space and if a SSMU recommendation goes through Students' Council, it will lose its funding as well.

On September 28, Kevin W. McPhee, SSMU Vice-President Operations, plans to ask the financial committee to remove McGill's student humour publication from this year's budget.

"There was a lot of questions and concerns about the quality of the publication," McPhee said. "That's the source of my recommendation for this year, that they don't receive any funding."

Last week, DJ Waletzky, editor-in-chief of the Red Herring, was alerted to the fact that he would likely be losing the funding. "The Red Herring and SSMU have never been the best of friends," he said. "If they don't think it's funny, it's not their place to decide. Their role is to decide how much money to give. If they don't think I was funny, they shouldn't have rehired me as editor-in-chief."

Waletzky saw his funding cut in half last year, allowing him to put out only one issue instead of the usual two. It came out at the end of the school year and focused mostly on SSMU elections and executives. Then over the summer, the fifteen-year-old magazine lost its office to renovations and was not offered any new space.

Chris Gratto, Vice-president Clubs and Services, has been dealing with the Red Herring and Waletzky. "Small papers on campus don't have offices," he said. "We're doing renovations, we don't have offices for them right now. He certainly isn't the only one; we have about 30 groups on our waiting list."

Gratto conferred with McPhee on The Red Herring's funding and is backing his proposal to council. He believes that Waletzky can put together a good magazine, but that "money isn't the important way that we can help

him." He has suggested to Waletzky that he write a column for The Tribune or The Daily to attract writers to improve the quality of a future issue.

"There were many comments on his issue last year," Gratto said. He has had at least 10 people complain about the issue. "People thought that it was much too focused on elections and frankly most students aren't at all interested in elections... Who cares about elections? Who cares about making fun of executives? ... It's not funny if you make fun of them."

Waletzky and the editorial staff of The Red Herring feel that SSMU is underestimating the appeal of the magazine. "We did half the magazine on the elections and far as I know it was generally well-received," Waletzky said. The magazine's website alone has received almost 90,000 hits since November, he asserts, and he has received only one negative response, from a friend of Kevin McPhee's complaining about a joke about him.

Waletzky finds it more than just a coincidence that the people he ridicules in his publication are the ones taking away his funding. "It could be a political thing," he said. They don't like me or The Herring, but probably both."

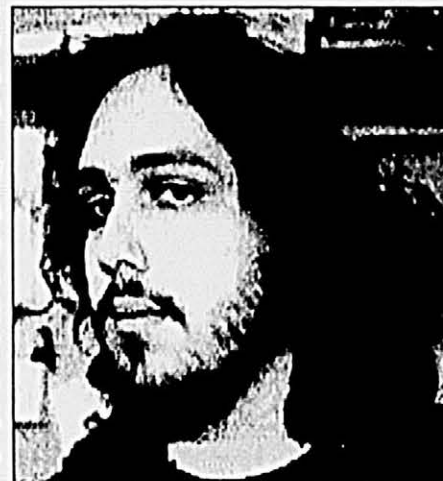
"I don't care if they do one page or thirty pages bashing me, is irrelevant to me," McPhee insists. He feels rather that is simply an issue of relevance and other more pressing needs for the \$2000 allocated annually to The Red Herring.

"If council agrees with me, that the Red Herring doesn't deserve funding, then it'll approve my recommendation," he said. "If it disagrees and believes the perception that I'm doing this for ulterior motives and they think that is the case, then they'll obviously amend my budget recommendation."

He feels The Red Herring has been given a

chance to be financially viable. "There's certainly no obligation in [their] terms of reference for the SSMU to fully fund their publication and for them to not ever have to worry about advertising revenues or try to make up expenses," he said.

Gratto, however, while agreeing that The Red Herring needs more advertising in order to lower cost, feels that the publication could



Red Herring editor-in-chief DJ Waletzky

not attract any without a dramatic change in content. "No one will take out an ad in The Red Herring. If you're going to be printing things that offend people, advertisers don't want their names associated with that."

Waletzky feels his efforts should be concentrated on writing and editing. "I was told that it was my job to get advertising. I couldn't sell water in the desert." He approached Paul Slatcka, advertising manager for SSMU publications The McGill Tribune and The McGill Handbook, and "refused flat-out to sell any ads for the Red Herring."

While he awaits the final decision from council, Waletzky is considering making The Red Herring an independent publication. "If we don't get our funding, I'm just going to leave SSMU," he said. "I mean, what am I going to stay there for? So they can censor me and not give me any money?"

Steps in the Right Direction

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK
The McGill Daily

Yet another student publication had office trouble this summer. Stepsmagazine, the popular arts publication affiliated with the Arts Undergraduate Society, was forced to leave its office space in the basement of the Leacock building this summer.

"We really have no office," said Anne-Michelle Tessier last week, editor-in-chief of Stepsmagazine. "We are currently a bunch of boxes in the basement. Tessier spent the summer going back and forth between McGill and AUS trying to find out where they were going to publish from.

Ultimately, the problem led to a delay on the first issue. "We tried to have a frosh issue," Tessier said. "It just became impossible because I can't run it out of a box." In the end, the issue, to be distributed in frosh bags, didn't make it in time. "I was really frustrated by that," she said.

Last week however, AUS stepped in with an offer. "They've give us their whole back room," a jubilant Tessier announced, moments before The Daily went to press. The new office is even slightly bigger than the old one, Tessier said.

Tessier is looking forward to finally being able to resume a normal production schedule. Stepsmagazine can be reached at thesteps@hotmail.com.

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 90 Number 3

1911 *90 years* 2001

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The Daily is a founding member of the Canadian University Press and Presse étudiante du Québec.

Printed on 20% recycled paper.

ISSN 1192-4608

Subscriptions to The Daily are available for \$60 a year (70 issues), or \$30 for half a year. Contact the business and advertising office.

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letters



ROMBOUGH RIGHT ABOUT REZ

I would like to register my agreement with Ria Rombough (letter, Sept. 7) who wrote in regards to the plight faced by both McGill Residences as well as students who expect housing. I was particularly heartened by her post-script about upper-year students still living in the Ghetto, as the same thoughts had been turning around in my own mind since reading "Residences Overflow" (Aug. 31). I am a second year student, and after one year of residence, I am living on my own and even out of town, in the Montreal suburb of Verdun.

I hope I will not deliver too much one-sided information, as Montreal offers many wonderful places to live, however I am best suited to speak about what I know. One of the most important features of more out-of-the-way places, I think, is that housing in these areas is remarkably less expensive than anything downtown. The rent on my 7 1/2 apartment, plus a large, unfurnished basement, comes to less than \$800 a month, little enough that I need only one roommate to help with expenses. These outlying areas also tend to offer more in the way of conveniently located inexpensive, non-mainstream shops, supermarkets and cafes. I am with-

in quick walking distance of two large supermarkets, a small Middle Eastern supermarket, a fresh fruit and vegetable stand, two pharmacies, and any number of eateries and second handstores.

I won't argue that there aren't many advantages to living downtown or in the Ghetto such as convenient access to campus, the social and nightlife, as well as to other students. But perhaps more room should be made there for newcomers. And I would certainly encourage anyone looking for an inexpensive, independent life style to consider getting out of downtown.

Matthew Durnford
U1 Psychology

"PHILOSOPHER" A DISGRACE

I read with interest Avi Cramer's Hyde Park (Sept. 7) about his conversation with someone in his hometown. Quite frankly, it was disgusting. Cramer typifies the arrogant snob that politicians can point to when they slash post-secondary education funding. What exactly were we supposed to think as we read his article? Oh, wow, the guy who didn't go to university and works an honest job to pay for a car is sooo jejune compared to the enlightened mind of Avi Cramer. That's snobbery of the worst kind.

Susan Williams
UO Arts

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If you can write, draw, copy edit, take pictures, layout, juggle, do odd jobs, ride a unicycle, mop, mock, duck, dance, masticate, finangle, ponch, ponce, boondoggle, gesticulate madly, emancipate, finally perfect that circle thing, proclamate, confederate, pontificate, stand outside Pierre Trudeau's house and give interviews although he isn't even dead yet (as of presstime) like Desmond Morton did on Friday afternoon, cartoon, shock, offend, tease, litigate, spend more money than the country has, move, find us a nice new office, clean filing cabinets, recite Gaelic poetry, review cheesy DJs, postulate, salivate, simplify, deduce, sell options on the euro, induce, conduct, reduce, elevate, borrow, jimmy, signify, excrete, breathe, rhyme, run through the streets naked so that we can have an exclusive on your public humiliation, run for an elected office so that we can have an exclusive on your public humiliation, direct, act, sing, speak ASL, do the twist, prolong summer, cut through the crap, canter, sweeten, rot, figure, understand the Principia, slip-slide away, slip-stitch and pass, needlepoint, walk on water, bend spoons, shoot J.R., juvenate, pull out of Vietnam, buy JDS Uniphase low, overreach, balance, heal, promise that you won't pass wage and price controls but then do it anyway, run a successful rock band, jig, forage, lunch, subsistence farm, understand Reagan, forgive the bastards, understand life, not laugh out loud when you see footage of Mussolini, predict, realize, grow coral, hold your breath, be called worse things by better people, overcompensate, run an IPO, reveal Deep Throat, wear our famous blue raincoats at the Chelsea hotel, deny people who deserve, count to ten in Cantonese, spell, exaggerate, it's Patrick he took out life insurance, die in our arms tonight (it must have been something you said), tolerate other campus media, make lattes, still like McSweeney's, converge, not get tired of Adbusters, soak, poach, wet, invade Russia successfully, inspire, coach, start enclosures to spark industrialisation, pirouette in the presence of royalty even though you planned it a long time before, sit through a Planet of the Apes movie, jerk me around (Guy), understand summons, synthesize, eat summer corn, recreate, figure out that smell at Pine and St-Urbain, merge international aluminium companies, sensationalize, procreate or just generally be cool, come and join The Daily.

Come to our office in Shatner B-03, call us at 398-6784 or visit our table at Activities Night on Wednesday in Shatner.

Chicken Stock

In which Day is accused of foul play

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK
The McGill Daily

A slow news summer or right-wing conspiracy? Whatever it was, national and local newspapers gave amounts of coverage to the Canadian Alliance that were formerly reserved for such things as moon landings or world wars or deaths of hockey legends.

Whether it was Tom Long's followers in the Gaspé or Joe Clark getting all flustered, Canadians were either informed or entertained excessively over the past few months with news of this nascent national party.

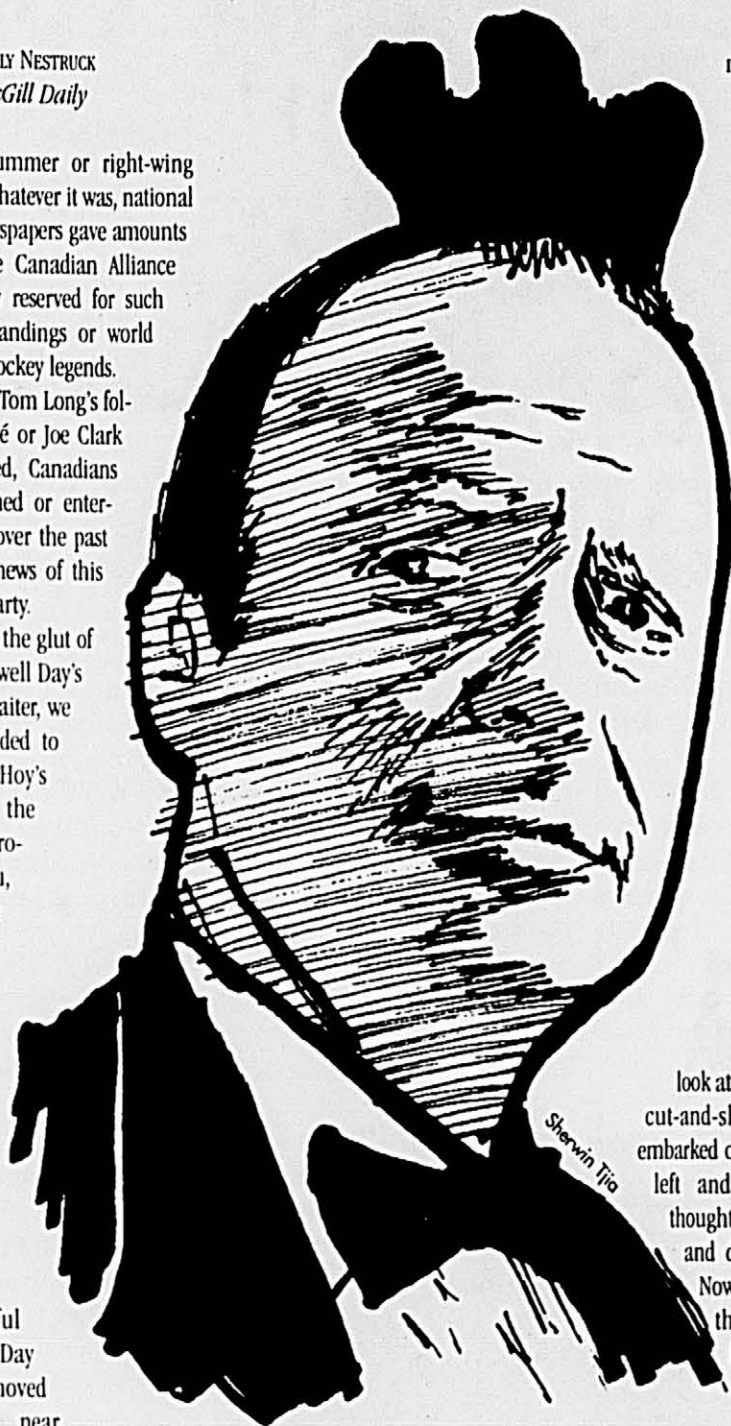
Not satisfied by the glut of stories about Stockwell Day's youth as a head waiter, we at The Daily decided to pick up Claire Hoy's biography of the famous flat-tax proponent to give you, the readers, the low-down on Deborah Grey's successor to lead the real alternative.

Without further ado, a fascinating anecdote from Stocky's early days.

In the fateful summer of 1969, Day and a buddy moved into a cottage near Victoria, B.C. Young 19-

year old that he was, Stock quickly got bored with his laconic setting and bought himself some chickens. He finagled three Leghorns for the low price of \$1.50 each and began raising them in the back of his 1966 Plymouth.

"At night, I would take the chickens for a walk through the neighbourhood and I used to tie shoelaces around their necks," Day is quoted in the book. "I guess, when I look back, it must have been a scary sight



man he is today?

Well, after he had digested the succulent chicken dinner, Day no doubt realized that stringent regulation was keeping him from his morning omelette. Hence, we have the basis for his current small government ideology.

Those of us who may not fall for Day's daze can learn a more important lesson: Don't count your eggs before they're laid - let alone the chickens before they hatch.

We may be laughing now, comfortable in the thought that the righteous right of the Alliance will never come to fruition, that this new political party is just a reincarnation of the bitter-West Reform party.

But we would be wise to look at Ontario, where Mike Harris' cut-and-slash Tories have just embarked on their second term. There, left and not-so-left alike never thought that Harris would get in and did not put up a struggle.

Now, cutbacks have poisoned their water, and homeless freeze to death on the streets of Toronto at an alarming rate. Television ads are

shown in high school classes and teachers are too tied up with mandatory extracurricular activities to do anything about it. And all this went on while concerned citizens shook their heads and said, "It'll never happen."

So let's not haphazardly let events unroll. Let's be sure to fight the Alliance's rhetoric before they run amok with our government like a, well, chicken with its head cut off.

to see some guy walking along with three chickens, but there were at least two eggs every morning, sometimes three."

Alas, the story ends sadly, as due to a zoning rule that forbid chicken-raising in the area, Stockwell and his friend were forced to kill the chickens. "So that night, myself and my buddy ate three chickens for dinner," says Day.

So what can we learn from this incident which no doubt shaped Day into the

undergraduate and post-graduate students' associations.

"According to [SSMU VP University Affairs Deborah] Pentesco, the reason for the policy change was to avoid 'reverse discrimination' against heterosexual students, but she was given no examples of such discrimination."

25 years ago: On September 16, 1975, The Daily's George Kopp explained how to avoid all courses that require any actual work. "Axiom 1: Don't take a course with an exam. Axiom 2: Always do a project instead of a paper," Kopp wrote. Bird courses he highlighted included Canadian Literature I ("Good if you get off on Leonard Cohen. If you play guitar, take it.") and Poetry of the Twentieth Century

("Check it out if they're doing concrete poetry. If so, grab it.")

50 years ago: On September 28, 1950, The Daily featured a story titled "Fearful Forms Face Frantic Freshmen," detailing the hellish registration procedure that students had to deal with before the technological marvel that is MARS came along. Speaking of MARS, why does MARS lady whisper when she talks about the permanent code. What, is it a secret? C'mon. Anyhoo, The Daily's writing at the time was quaint.

"It isn't possible that a human organized this huge puzzle," said a freshman interviewed by The Daily. With that, he walked over to the vending machine and partook of a stiff Coke."

SWEET CHAIR-ITY!

New seats in Leacock 132 nicely placate the masses



BY JOHN WACOS

I did everything I could to avoid it. I even considered switching majors. I frantically checked and double checked infoMcGill, hoping for a last minute room change. But in the end, it was an inevitability. I had to take a class in Leacock 132, affectionately known to some as the H. Noel Fieldhouse Auditorium. The

torture chamber on Wednesday. Lo and behold, like the chair-manna of the gods, they greeted me as I walked in. Beautiful, in their burgundy splendor, I let my ample solarplexus slide into the plush seat, as though I was letting my hands gently define the contours of my lover's sleek torso. As I slid into a blissful coma, I lost all track of Don Donderi's latest tale of his dog Sancho and his mentor Hebb.

When I awoke, the room was full of silence like that of Jonestown at the bottom of a big punch bowl of Kool-Aid. The students and professors were all lulled into a hypnotic somnambulism. Learning at this point seemed an impossibility, but epiphanies fell from the sky like God's tears. Isn't that what a liberal arts education is all about?

“Beautiful, in their burgundy splendor, I let my ample solarplexus slide into the plush seat, as though I was letting my hands gently define the contours of my lover's sleek torso.”

gargantuan lecture hall, McGill's biggest, has long terrified aficionados of comfortable seating with its 1960s-Soviet-style plastic-moulded chairs. When the seats weren't vandalized beyond all use, they were the least comfortable seats on campus.

Basically, you had two options: Sit up straight, look like a dork, and make everyone think that you're the keener that you actually can't stand. Or, do what most students do and slouch. You try to get comfortable; start sliding off; and the next thing you know, you're sitting on the floor. Either way, you wind up with back pain and it's impossible to get to sleep. That's why I was so enthused to walk in to that

Point is, thanks from the bottoms of our bottoms, McGill, for finally making a worthwhile investment in our education. If senior administration were smart, they'd put all that endowment money into plush seating, so we could blissfully ignore the crumbling decrepitude that is McGill. Honestly, does anyone really know what CFI grants are? I sure don't. But I do know one thing: Comfortable chairs are what it's all about, Alfie.



10 years ago: On September 5, 1990, The Daily's Daron Westman reported that McGill's Off-Campus Housing Service would no longer allow students to advertise their preference for lesbian or gay-positive roommates, despite the opposition of the

WRITE FOR THE MCGILL DAILY

NEWS MEETINGS:
MONDAY 4:00 TO 6:00PM

CULTURE MEETINGS:
FRIDAY 4:00 PM

PHOTOGRAPHY MEETINGS:
MONDAY 5:00PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!
ALL MEETINGS IN SHATNER B-03

**LETTERS AND HYDE PARKS
ARE WELCOMED ON THE
DAILY'S COMMENTARY PAGES.
LETTERS SHOULD BE UNDER
300 WORDS, WHILE HYDE
PARKS SHOULD BE UNDER 500
WORDS. PLEASE DROP THEM
OFF IN SHATNER B-03 OR
EMAIL THEM TO
LETTERS@MCGILLDAILY.COM**

INVESTING UNDER THE FTAA

The FTAA's rules on investment will most likely mirror those in NAFTA and the attempted Multilateral Agreement on Investment, a deal abandoned two years ago by the 29-member Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Investment provisions likely to be included in the FTAA include:

1) Broad definition of "investment": including every kind of asset such as derivatives, real-estate, stocks, bonds, cash, contracts, factories and services owned or controlled, directly or indirectly.

2) National Treatment: Foreign corporations and speculators must be treated as least as well as local businesses.

3) Free Movement of Capital: Governments would be forbidden to use safeguards, such as "speed-bumps" or deposit requirements to counter currency speculators.

4) Regulatory Takings: Government actions directly or indirectly having the "effect" of limiting the value of an investment, such as zoning, environmental or health measures, would be forbidden unless compensation is paid by the government.

5) Phase out of performance requirements: Governments would not be allowed to set conditions on investments, such that would require a factory to stay put for a set number of years or would impose environmental regulations on mining or logging techniques.

6) Investor to State Dispute Resolution: Multi-national corporations and speculators would be allowed to directly sue a host country before a tribunal to enforce the terms of the pact.

-Public Citizen



With a new mega-deal on the horizon,

Canadians Quest

BY ZACH DUBINSKY AND SOK YIN HOOI
The McGill Daily

You might be asked five years from now to pay \$48,000 tuition for university, warn critics of unbridled free trade, while medicare will be outlawed and increasingly scarce fresh water privatized and sold for profit.

And if current trends continue, they say, only an elite few will enjoy steady jobs with decent salaries, while the rest scrounge for piecemeal employment.

It's certainly a bleak and cynical vision for our future. But it has inspired tens of thousands of people — professors, students, labourers, seniors, youth — to converge during the

past year in Seattle, Washington, and Windsor, speaking out against a globalization they say increasingly exploits ordinary people and the planet they live on.

Next April, they'll be in Quebec City. At the Third Summit of the Americas, students from McGill and Montreal will play a large role in opposing the latest proposal for trade liberalization: a 34-country, hemisphere-wide deal called the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION AT ITS FINEST

The plan is to bind all the nations in South, Central and North America

and the Caribbean — all save Cuba, that is — into one free-trade and investment zone. Based closely on the North American Free Trade Agreement, the FTAA would regulate \$17-trillion in goods, services, and investment within the hemisphere. Or, rather, the opposite — the agreement's stated goal is to remove remaining limits on the free flow of capital by 2005, a move that will impact the lives of 800 million people.

The official FTAA website promotes the deal as the "largest regional integration effort ever undertaken." The breadth of the negotiations, it says, "is unprecedented even by the standards of the Uruguay Round," a seven-year-long series of talks that created the World Trade Organization in 1995. The scope of FTAA negotiations will go much further than current regional agreements in South and Central America, and eclipse even the WTO by including common rules on investment, government spending, and competition policy.

Proponents of the FTAA — mainly those in government and big business — say the deal will promote "economic growth.... create jobs, make companies more competitive, and lower prices for consumers."

According to Canadian government documents, the agreement will "provide poor countries with the chance to develop economically....and create the conditions in which democracy and respect for human rights may flourish." They cite NAFTA, Canada's current agreement with the United States and Mexico, saying all three countries have prospered immensely since the deal came into force in 1994.



The FTAA website is
www.ftaa-alca.org

For further info on FTAA-Alert McGill, including links to more information on free trade, see
<http://students.actionsite.org>



Question Free Trade

NAFTA EXPERIENCE

But the critics aren't persuaded. Their myriad concerns with the proposed FTAA also, coincidentally, start with NAFTA.

The North American agreement took the unprecedented step of including a section - the now infamous Chapter 11 - giving foreign companies the right to sue national governments for any actions "tantamount to a barrier to trade."

Neither citizens nor domestic corporations have this power - the ability to sue their own government for passing laws that cut into their profits. And when foreign businesses do sue, it's not through the regular channels - namely, the target country's court system. Decisions are made at closed-door tribunals of three panelists: one representative from each party to the dispute and one "impartial" third party.

While nice on paper - Chapter 11 prevents the US from, for example, barring imports of Canadian beer on the spurious grounds of its taste (or lack thereof) - in practice the clause has paralyzed governments from passing or upholding environmental and health legislation.

When the Canadian government banned in 1997 a potentially toxic fuel additive known as MMT, Ethyl Corp., a US-based producer of the chemical, sued for \$251-million because the evidence of MMT's harmfulness was inconclusive. The government had to settle last year for a \$19-million payment to Ethyl and a reversal on its ban.

Mexico was ordered last week by a NAFTA tribunal to pay \$25.5-million to US-based Metalclad, a waste company barred from operating a toxic waste plant in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi. Metalclad alleged local government officials were acting out of order when they for failing to get a building permit.

Even the mighty American government has suffered - and complained of - a loss of power to legislate.

Vancouver-based Methanex Corp. is suing the US for \$1.5-billion over a March, 1999, California law ordering the phase-out of another gasoline additive, MTBE. Methanex, like Ethyl before it, claims that government concerns about

the safety of the chemical are "unfounded." MTBE has been found in 10,000 groundwater wells in California, prompting the US government's adverse reaction to the suit.

"No NAFTA [member-country] could carry out its most fundamental government functions unless it was prepared to pay for each and every economic impact," the government stated in its defence filing.

NAFTA also has fairly sketchy protection for public universities and medicare, argue some legal experts, by defining these non-commercial government services in vague terms, while setting timelines for eventually phasing out these "non-conforming" services altogether.

All this means that the FTAA's investment rules would be one of its most significant and controversial components.

Unlike free trade, attempts at large-scale investment liberalization through multilateral treaties are fairly recent, with NAFTA and the defunct Multilateral Agreement on Investment as major examples.

"'Liberalization' and 'free' trade has meant liberal treatment and freedom only for investors and transnational corporations," says a document published by the Council of Canadians, a national citizens advocacy group. "For the rest of us, it has meant more social, economic, and political exclusion."

"Investors have already used NAFTA's Chapter 11 several times in order to force North American governments to strike down laws or withdraw regulations originally designed to protect the environment or human health."

The Council argues that, despite promises that this "liberalization" benefits all, the gap between rich and poor continues to widen. In Latin America, it points out, 36 per cent of the region's 204 million population live in poverty, the same proportion as in 1980. Poverty also has a stubborn presence in the Caribbean, the United States, and even Canada.

"We have already lived through nearly a quarter century of 'liberalization' of our economies, privatization, deregulation, and the elimination of tariffs only to find

that we are no better off than we were before," says Maude Barlow, the group's voluntary chairperson.

The Council of Canadians and many other public interest groups aren't opposed to "globalization" per se. Both the Council and the Canadian Labour Congress, the umbrella group for the country's unions, believe stronger links between nations can foster respect for basic human rights and freedoms. But they don't see unfettered free trade as the way to go about it.

They say free trade by itself only gives corporations rights, undermines the autonomy of nations, and places business and trade above all other concerns - environmental, social, human. They put forth a vision for "fair trade," something they say the proposed FTAA won't accomplish.

STUDENT MOBILIZATION AT MCGILL

"The FTAA will give corporations special rights that no country or citizen can claim," says Silvia Lertz, a third-year English literature student at McGill. "Nations won't be able to protect their people or environment anymore if their laws are deemed 'barriers to trade.'"

Lertz belongs to a group of students called FTAA-Alert McGill. They hope to help create "a coalition of students and community members who have concerns about quality education, labour, health care, the environment, women's rights, and colour issues," she says.

"Since the FTAA attacks all these areas of public interest, it's an unusual opportunity for us to respond in a united front."

The proximity of the historic Quebec City summit from April 20 to 22, 2001, also means that McGill students, among other Montreal campuses, have a potentially critical role to play in the campaign.

Still in its initial stages, FTAA-Alert McGill operates a listserv for interested individuals, is developing a website for information exchange, and will host a series of four "Globalization 101" workshops on campus starting next week. An open coalition meeting for all clubs, groups, professors, and individuals is planned for later this month.

Besides the McGill group, anticipation

of the upcoming summit has spurred individuals and organizations from across Quebec, Canada, and North America into action. Groups based in Quebec City and Montreal are leading the preparations for alternative summits, teach-ins, workshops, and creative forms of public protest.

CANADA'S BIGGEST SECURITY RISK

These community groups, however, are not the only ones preparing seriously for the event. The Quebec City summit will be the largest security operation in Canada's history - 34 heads of state, swarms of protesters, thousands of RCMP officers teaming with provincial and local police, and a \$30-million tab.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service recently released a report titled "Anti-Globalization: a Spreading Phenomenon," as part of its mandate to investigate "any issue with the potential to cause threats to public or national security." The CSIS report details the "multi-generational, multi-class, and multi-issue" nature of these so-called anti-globalization convergences, with "a broad spectrum of interests and agendas, of groups, lobbyists and networks, who use sophisticated methods and technology."

If experience is a good indicator, police will barricade huge swaths of city blocks, don gas masks, body armour, and riot shields, and wield pepper spray and rifles that launch tear-gas canisters.

Sound familiar?

The same scene played out dramatically in Seattle, Washington, and Windsor - where police arguably outnumbered protesters - at demonstrations over the last year. Quebec City has already announced that all merchants, residents, and official visitors will be required to show passes to enter the city core, and protesters will likely face a modern-day fortress in the only walled city in North America.

Throughout the coming months, The McGill Daily will be analyzing the potential impacts of the FTAA on a wide variety of social, economic and environmental issues. Stay tuned.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THE FTAA

"We can produce a long list of things that Parliament was once able to decide, whether it has to do with drug patent legislation, bulk water exports, split-run magazines, or managed trade agreements like the Auto Pact. The list is quite long of things that were once properly the object of democratic decision-making that are now taken out of that realm and given over to these free-trade agreements."

- Bill Blaikie, Trade Critic for the federal New Democratic Party

"Can we deprive countries of South America of one of their assets, which is cheap labour? We can't step in and tell these people to adopt our current standards because our workers get more because they are more productive."

- Pierre Pettigrew, Canadian Minister of International Trade

"We work an average of 14 to 15 hours a day. There's no transport service to and from work, and we get off shift at 4 o'clock in the morning. Usually we have to wait until 7 am before we can catch a public bus. And when a bus does come, getting home costs 20 pesos. That makes a very big dent in your take-home pay of 380 to 400 pesos a week [\$40 to \$43]....I feel that in three or four years my hands are going to be useless. What else can I do? They say work in the maquilas is the best paid work here in the city."

- Omar Gil, Mexican *maquiladora* worker. In Mexico, since the introduction of NAFTA, more than 2700 "maquilas" (industrial sweatshops with deplorable working conditions) have been created, with an estimated 500,000 workers - mostly women.

"Free-trade agreements, along with structural adjustment, are an affront to democracy, to the rights of workers, to the rights of people to determine their own destiny. They overrule ILO Conventions and UN human rights treaties."

- Western Hemisphere Workers' Conference Against NAFTA and Privatization

"No NAFTA [country] could carry out its most fundamental government functions unless it was prepared to pay for each and every economic impact."

- U.S. government in its statement of defence in the Methanex lawsuit

"Prior to entering into these free-trade agreements there were less homeless people on the streets, there was less poverty in Canada....Even if our consumer choice has broadened - and I think that's arguable - the range of choices available to us as citizens, and collectively speaking as a democracy, is greatly decreased."

- Bill Blaikie

"Now, Canadians are in a position to examine the track record. We can ask ourselves: Have the NAFTA rulings allowed us to protect our culture? Has the labour side agreement protected the rights of factory workers in Canada and Mexico? Has the environmental side agreement given us the freedom to freely regulate polluters? Have human rights, from Chiapas to L.A. to Toronto, been strengthened?"

- Naomi Klein, Globe and Mail columnist

IO

McGILL DAILY Compendium

SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

FUN FACT ABOUT OUR FOUNDER:

Once again, we continue our series about the amazing life and times of The Daily's founder, W.E. Gladstone Murray. Last time, we told you that he became the first chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation after he founded The Daily. Today, an excerpt from the Oct. 1, 1936 Daily on his brilliant military career:

"On August 4, 1914, Gladstone joined the King Edward's Horse and then served successively in the Highland Light Infantry, the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force. He had a distinguished flying record in the R.A.F. and was known for his chivalrous act of flying behind enemy lines to drop a wreath in memory of the great German Ace, Baron von Richtofen."



TLC FOR ME

BY DEREK BOWMAN
The Manitoban, Winnipeg

Across

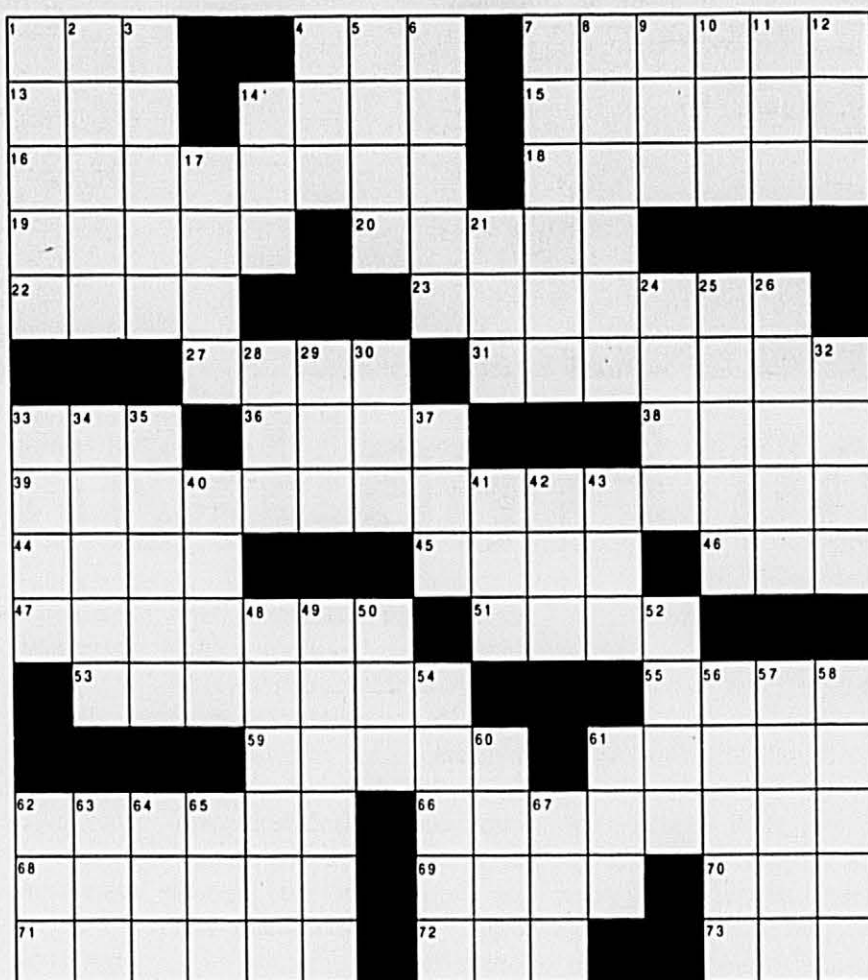
- 1 Psychologist's Bible
- 4 _____ Mahal
- 7 Tooth property
- 13 Greek vowel
- 14 Type of Bell
- 15 Jennifer Lopez role
- 16 TLC doesn't want these
- 18 Dances to "In The Mood"
- 19 "Ebony and _____"
- 20 Big shot, for short
- 22 Restaurant necessity
- 23 TLC album
- 27 High-frequency radiation type
- 31 Makeover result
- 33 NHLer _____
- 36 Open one's big mouth
- 38 "Orinoco Flow" singer
- 39 TLC will give you this all through the night
- 44 "Salut," on the phone
- 45 _____ Jones from

Down

- 1 "Mars Attacks!"
- 46 Adam's is water
- 47 It can keep out drafts
- 51 "Crazy Train" singer
- 53 TLC ain't never been no
- 55 "Cartoon Heroes" band
- 59 Smart-_____
- 61 Alda and Thicke
- 62 Beach Boys hit
- 66 TLC feel so damn _____
- 68 Singer Frankie
- 69 Cheerful song or tune
- 70 "Eek!" to Tintin
- 71 No more, _____
- 72 _____ Z, the gamut
- 73 Like many Vietnam vets: abbr.
- 1 Jeans material
- 2 Kitchen item
- 3 Popular jar
- 4 Greek letter
- 5 Past current?
- 6 Tyrant _____ Stalin

- 7 Old-time Middle Eastern ascetic
- 8 Definitive suburban status symbol
- 9 Formerly Clay
- 10 Bathroom door sign
- 11 Chaucer's lang.
- 12 _____ Vegas, Nevada
- 14 Attempt
- 17 Most important part
- 21 Computer network, abbr.
- 24 "Malice" actor Baldwin
- 25 Ancient Greek-settled region in Turkey
- 26 Not sleeping around
- 28 Slugger's stai
- 29 Popular math subj.
- 30 Uh-huh
- 32 Leafy green vegetable
- 33 Epochs
- 34 Tennis star Monica
- 35 Former U.S. Vice President Stevenson
- 37 "Takin' Care Of Business" band

- 40 _____ about, laze
- 41 _____-mo replay
- 42 Peruvian peace
- 43 Split _____
- 48 Los _____, New Mexico
- 49 Women's leg-wear
- 50 Definitive article
- 52 New Haven university
- 54 One-eyed Gargonite from "Small Soldiers"
- 56 Middle Eastern country
- 57 Undo shoelaces
- 58 Up to now
- 60 Something granny likes to do
- 61 Museum fill
- 62 With 64 down, brand of dog food
- 63 _____-lacto-vegetarian
- 64 With 62 down
- 65 Cry at a bullfight
- 67 Blackboard letters



MONDAY ISSUES: QUICK CROSSWORDS!
THURSDAY ISSUES: CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS!
EVERY ISSUE: JAM PACKED WITH CRUCIVERBAL FUN!

Gazette catches Daily editor hangin' with Brian Mulroney



This photo by Dave Sidaway from last Thursday's Gazette features Daily news editor Simon Rabinovitch, who was covering Mulroney's appearance. Also last Thursday, Daily editor J. Kelly Nestruck's rant about MC Mario selling out to Crush appeared in The Mirror.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

Across

1. QUA(KIN)G
4. Oppressiv(PIN)E
7. ACTS (2 defs.)
8. AR(RANGE)R (arrive = arr.)
10. HIP+MASS+AGE
12. WARBLE (anag.)
13. UTERUS (anag.)
15. MALI+G+NANCY
18. GI(singe)RLY
19. GENE (hidden)
20. TEN(E)T
21. DE-VOTED (pun)

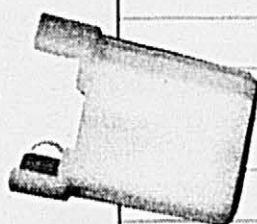
Down

1. SQUASH
2. A+UTO PART (trap out, anag.)
3. GARNISH
4. ORANGUTANS (anag.)
5. I+AGO
6. FEARLESS
9. PA(RLIAME)NT (Mailer, anag.)
11. TRANSEPT (anag.)
12. WROUGHT (2 defs.)
14. TITLED (hidden)
16. YIELD (2 defs.)
17. A+NON

A+
Place Montréal Trust,
it's OK to change
your mind!
We'll even help
you do it!

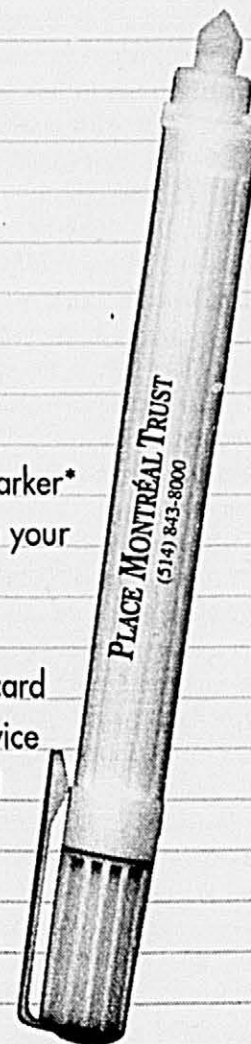
Get a free eraser-tipped Place Montréal Trust marker* with an eraser end and you'll be able to change your mind as often as you like!

*All you need to do is show your student I.D. card and pick up your free marker at our customer service kiosk. One marker per student. While supplies last!



PLACE MONTRÉAL TRUST

FLOORS OF STORES AND RESTOS
CORNER MCGILL COLLEGE AND STE. CATHERINE



Ogres and a Phallic Tongue

New exhibit in town exploits space to manipulate art and impression

BY SARI LONG

Culture Reporter, The McGill Daily

It's always a grab bag of surprises whenever you see one of the touring exhibits at the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal. Which is not a bad thing, usually, since you are probably there in the first place to be exhilarated and shocked by some new art thing. Louise Viger's new exhibit, *The Ogre and the Connoisseur*, achieves exactly that effect. Without being an overly art-inclined person, I was intrigued.

Before you even get to see the exhibit itself, there is a lot of printed commentary available to peruse. It is all written by Gilles Godmer, the curator of the museum, and the description of Viger's new work is extremely deep, esoteric and extraordinary. Godmer's fantastically concocted study of the exhibit was over my head, but it was still very helpful in the difficult analysis of what I was about to experience. Disappointingly, the commentary also gave a lot of the surprise away, but in any case, Godmer's words gave new insight to the work.

Viger, historically, has been known to focus mainly on the male figure—which was, I was sure, bound to influence her

current work. She is currently working on a series of projects that revolve around the five senses. *The Ogre and the Connoisseur* is the second part of the series, focusing on



One of Viger's works.

taste whereas her prior project, *Zephyr*, focused on touch. Viger has been known to use edible materials in her art so this new examination into light and shadow as well as space and matter fittingly focuses on taste. I was prepared, as Godmer's writing

suggested, to view the museum space itself as part of the art, not just serving to display it.

Entering the exhibit, I felt obligated to notice everything about the museum space itself, which has a truly different feel than merely examining art on a wall as I was accustomed to doing. The first image I encountered was a kind of sculpture that looked like a sentry, a sort of shy angel and a disjointed chair all at once. It hung on a mustard coloured wall with a halo of light around it and I thought, "Hm. That's nice. I wonder how that relates to those pages and pages of enigmatic analysis that I just read. Oh well, maybe the rest of the exhibit will explain it." I continued around the corner, expecting to see maybe rows and walls of many similar sculptures but instead, I found myself in a large room with rounded corners, and a gigantic red, phallic, tongue sculpture in the middle of it all. Projected on the curving womblike walls was a repeating image of a chair on it's side, curving and spiralling all around the room. I truly began to

feel the interaction of the museum space and the art as I approached the wall for a closer look and discovered my own shadow on the wall. After being admonished by the security guard to put my bag on the side, I began to feel dizzy with all those chairs piled around M.C. Escher-style so I left.

It was difficult to form my own opinion after being inundated with Godmer's own intensive inspection. For one thing, that tongue, that gigantic and very phallic tongue, did evoke a sensual and tasteful feeling. Taste being used in both the physical and aesthetic sense. I did also get the point that the museum space was a whole part of the project, being useful in the matter versus space, light versus shadow and preservation versus disintegration ideas. Viger herself said that this work was "...based on an ethereal symbolism which demands lightness as an inherent value in a phenomenology of taste." Of course, this is also where Godmer claims a connection between the tongue and the museum as being bastions of preservation. The first preserves the body and the sec-

ond preserves the art. In my opinion, that's a hard parallel to draw on something like this, but it is, after all, based on how you perceive art in the first place.

When all is said and done, Viger's art is extremely unique and worth shelling out \$3 for. If for some reason you make the trip to see the exhibit, which runs until the 29th of October, and hate it, you have options to redeem your trip. Marcelle Ferron has her entire collection right next door to offer your more traditional "art on the wall," as well as some super cool stained glass work. However you look at it, the museum has much to explore if you haven't seen it yet. But observe the art yourself before you read some lengthy dissertation on the meanings behind it all, so you can make your own unbiased judgments.

The *Ogre and the Connoisseur* runs until October 29th at the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal at 185 Ste. Catherine for \$3. Call (514) 847-6226 for more information.

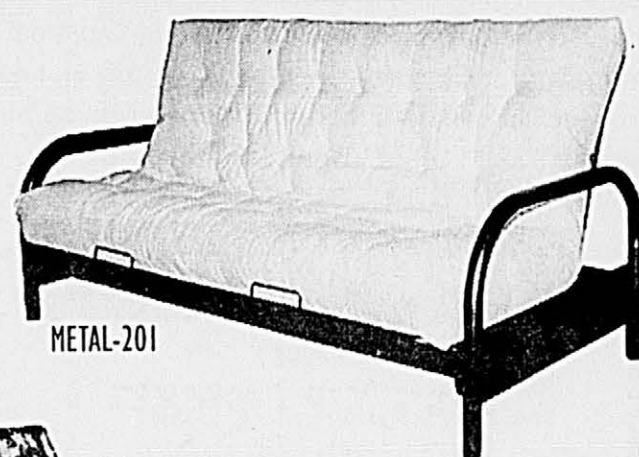
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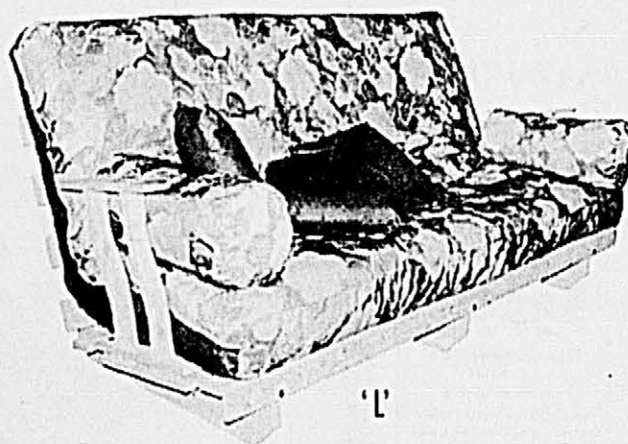
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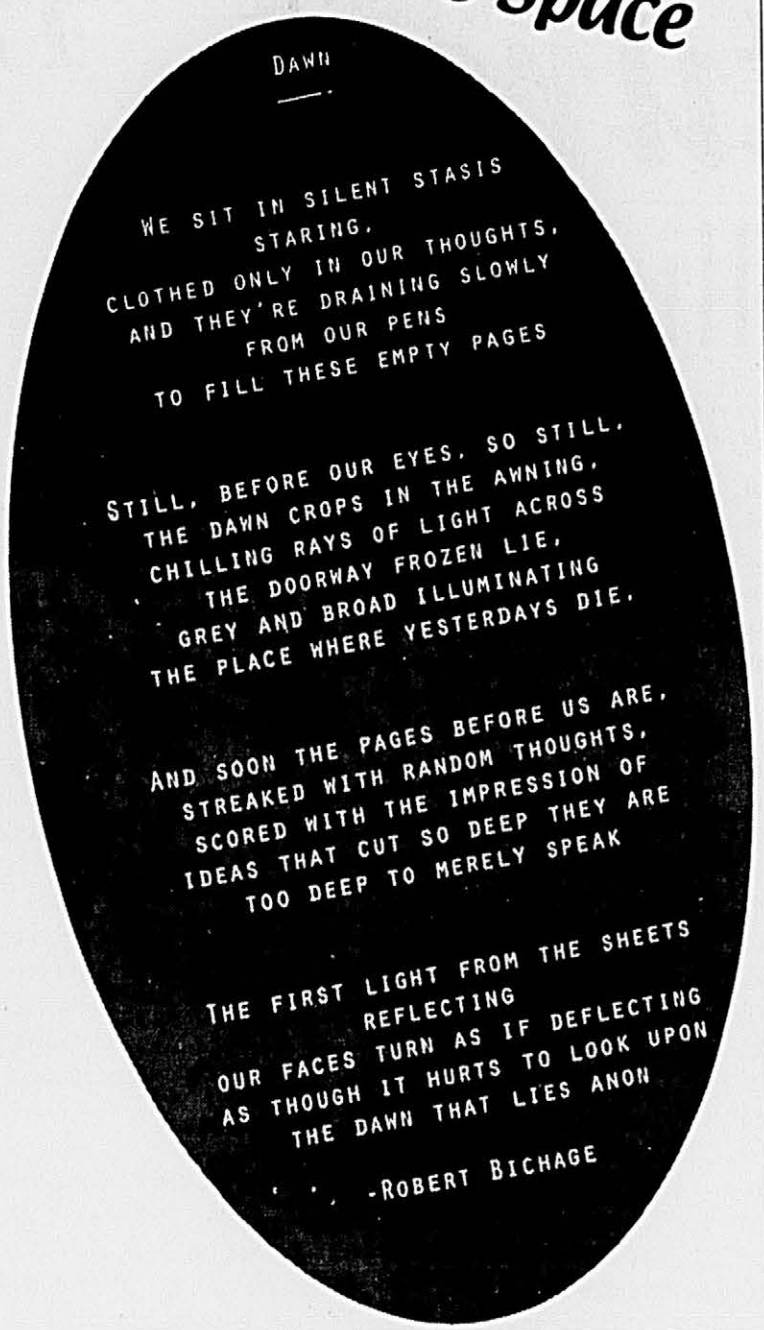
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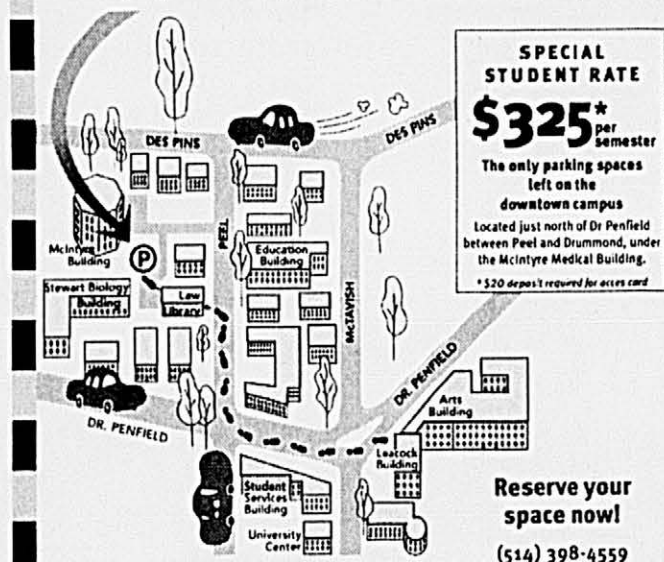
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Music Faculty Gets a Break

New building will receive \$6.5-million in additional funding from the CFI

BY DAVID PODGORSKI
Culture Reporter

The new Faculty of Music Building is one step closer to completion after a proposal to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation yielded \$6.5 million in grants from federal, provincial, and private coffers.

The proposal was made last spring in order to provide the infrastructure for the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music, Media, and Technology. It was the brainchild of Professor Wieslaw Woszczyk, the departmental chair of music theory and director of the McGill Sound Recording Studio. The project is intended to bridge the gap between musicians with a poor grasp of technology and technicians who are not musically inclined, as well as give students an edge in such fields as sound recording and the music business.



Dean of Music Richard Lawton explained the importance of such an undertaking for music students.

"If you can't get into a specialized field like performance or composition, you have to put together your own career, and technology figures much more into that than it used to."

Above: Music building at present. Right: A model of the proposed building with the extension lighted.

The keystone of the project will be a multimedia studio that will also serve as a recital hall. A three-floor library and additional rehearsal space will complement the new building. The new space will allow the faculty to increase its enrollment to 850 students, up from its current matriculation

of about 600 undergraduates.

Unfortunately for those who are eager to see construction begin, the project still needs an additional \$9.5 million for the building to be completed — and any additional funding will have to come from the private sector.

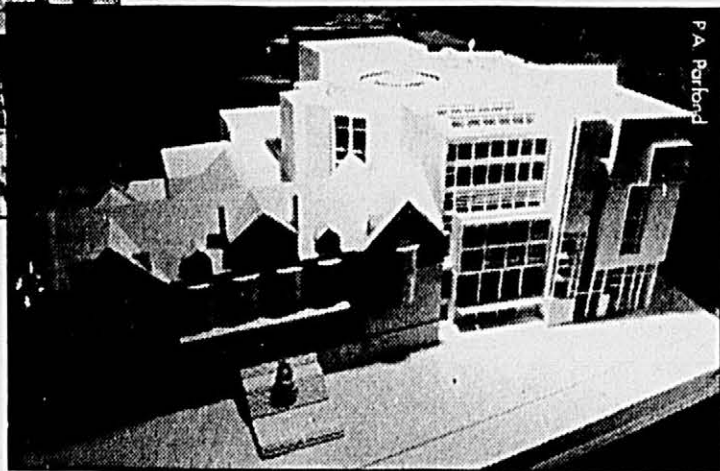
Students and staff are growing tired of delays.

"The way people talk about this new building, it sounds like a dream," said Leonie Wall, president of the Music Undergraduate Students' Society.

Principal Bernard Shapiro also explained the difficulty the project has in finding donors.

"There isn't the same alumni in Music as in other faculties. Music alumni simply don't have access to that kind of money".

But Lawton maintains that the faculty has seen worse days, recalling his own years as a music student. "The music building [that we had] at that time was a slum," he reflected. "I remember going into a practice room and having to chase out a rat."



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Flute-Playing Guru Offers Free Concert

BY JASON MAGHANAY
The McGill Daily

Devaki Groulx has a booth set up outside the Open Air Pub promoting Sri Chinmoy's upcoming concert on September 23rd. She watches kids enter the OAP, talking about normal, possibly superficial things and drinking their customary beers before they head out to their classes.

Groulx is quiet and wears sunglasses and she also wears a funky hat. There's a calm about her, and she needs that calm when she is dealing with the students who go past her table. University students are intelligent and beautiful and sexy, but at the same time they're prickly and cynical, often skeptical when presented with new ideas. It would be unsurprising for many a cynical McGill student to want to make a mockery of Chinmoy, his philosophy and the unusual nature of his musical presentation.

You would have to have been staring obliviously at the ground wherever you walk to not know what I am talking about. There is no way for anyone to avoid seeing the massive number of posters and flyers that have been plastered around campus, and throughout the city. They're the vibrant purple ones with an intense-looking guy peacefully playing the flute. By looking at the posters promoting his upcoming concert, it's easy to dismiss Sri Chinmoy as a sort of new-age flake. After all, what can one think when the poster's premise consists of a small bald man, playing a flute in front of a poor reproduction of the Milky Way or similar galaxy. The ad boasts that Sri Chinmoy is going to put on the "Concert of a Lifetime" at the Molson Centre. Sri Chinmoy's upcoming concert seeks to promote peace throughout the world through the power of music and meditation.

I took a seat with Groulx at her booth and watched the kids stroll by. She explained her role in promoting the Sri Chinmoy event.

"I'm a leader or co-president of the Montreal Branch, Sri Chinmoy Meditation Center. We are the host city of Sri Chinmoy's only Canadian appearance. As a volunteer I do whatever I can to help promote the concerts. I've postered, flyer'd, and answered

phones."

According to Groulx, Sri Chinmoy is not a cult

cert. Groulx asserts that Chinmoy is no fanatic. "He's a spiritual leader or Guru (which means teacher in Sanskrit) who spends his life trying to inspire humanity to find happiness and inner peace through meditation and prayer. He's very gentle, sweet, kind, and

promote outer peace amongst nations and peoples."

However, there is also a remarkable contingent of people that would likely disagree with Groulx's hearty and enthusiastic endorsement of Chinmoy. Several websites cite the concerns of parents whose student-age children have joined Sri Chinmoy's sect. Intensive meditation practice, involving extensive staring at photos of Chinmoy, can supposedly bring on bouts of psychosis. The group's demand that members adhere to rules of celibacy have also brought on speculation that the group is a cult. Others have questioned Chinmoy's outlandish claims of having lifted thousands of pounds with a single arm (far exceeding documented world records) thanks to a developed mind-body connection.

The philosophy of Chinmoy requires significant pondering and students can be a difficult demographic to

target; just try to get them to come out to a "Free Mumia" demonstration at 5:00 pm on a Wednesday. I asked Groulx if she thinks University students are too angry and cynical for something known as "The Concert of a Lifetime." Groulx does not think so.

"The students have all told me how much they are looking forward to it, how much they need peace, and how they really appreciate what we are doing. I think (the concert) is perfect to alleviate some of the stress I know students experience, and to offer something positive for free."

Or not.

"The Concert of a Lifetime" will be presented by Sri Chinmoy at the Molson Centre on the 23rd of September. Tickets for this free show are being given away in many locations around Montreal.

poised. He has a very peaceful aura which others feel tangibly... Sri Chinmoy's philosophy is that peace is everyone's birthright and he would like as many people as possible to experience it. If people can find inner peace, it will spread and

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Friday Sept 8	Monday Sept 11	Tuesday Sept 12	Wednesday Sept 13	Thursday Sept 14	Friday Sept 15	Monday Sept 18
3:00	10:00	12:00	Activities	11:00	10:00	10:00
4:00	3:00	5:00	Day	6:00	3:00	11:00
	4:00	6:00	Shatner	7:00	4:00	3:00
Room 302	Room 302	Room 310	Ballroom!	Room 310	Room 302	Room 302

Please Note: All information sessions will be held in room 302 in the William & Mary Brown Student Services Building, 3600 McTavish St. except for Tuesday, September 12th and Thursday, September 14th, these sessions will be held in room 310.

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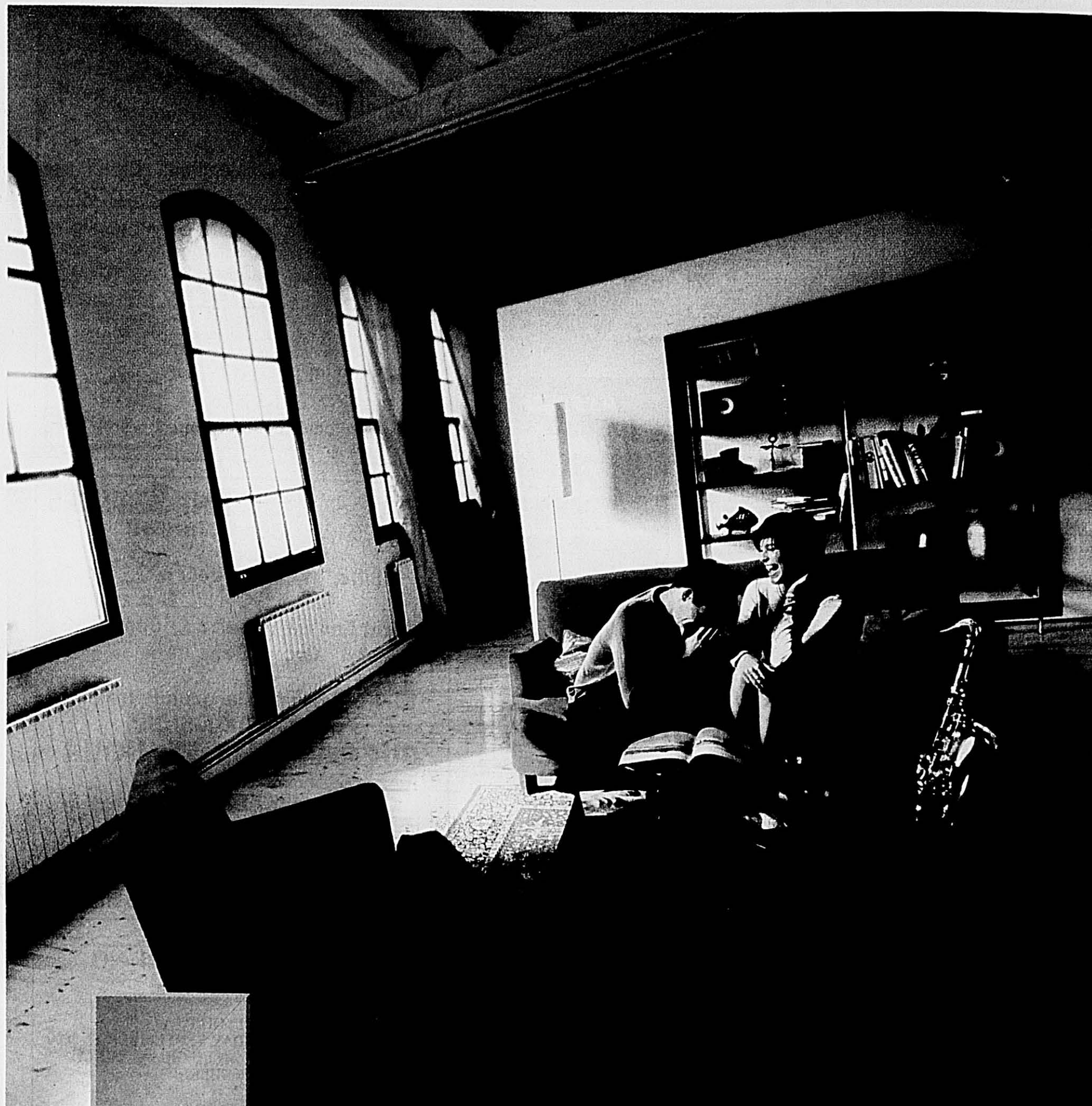
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